

## **Senior Sub-Cabinet Workgroup on Civic Engagement**

### **Update June 25, 2012**

Since the Workgroup's March meeting we have supported and noted a number of activities which strengthen civic engagement of older adults in Montgomery County:

#### **1. Lifelong Learning**

Since we did not cover lifelong learning in our March report, we have received a summary of Montgomery College's growing opportunities for seniors. (Attached) During the past year the Lifelong Learning Institute has significantly expanded its sites for classes including a number of Montgomery County libraries. Thousands of older adults are enrolled in college courses and many qualify for the tuition waiver. A new non-profit organization, Bethesda Live and Learn, has initiated programs at the Bethesda Regional Service Center.

#### **2. AARP**

Building on the past year's efforts, we have strengthened our ties to AARP/Maryland. The State Director was invited to participate in the County Council's Shaping the Future discussion on seniors as well as a recent meeting of the Vital Living Network. He also served on a panel for the Commission on Aging's summer study, "Exploring the Value of the Contribution of Older Adults to the Economy". The State Director has also been invited to appear in the fall on Seniors Today.

#### **3. The Village Movement**

We have renewed the county's membership in the Village to Village Network which provides information about Best Practices and supports to the village movement throughout the United States. We have added two new forming villages in the county, Takoma Park and Potomac, as secondary members. The Silver Spring village has taken out its own membership in the Network. The Jewish Council for the Aging and Senior Connection have received a major federal grant to strengthen transportation options for village members.

#### **4. ReServe**

ReServe, a model program initiated in New York City in 2005, has initiated activities in Maryland, starting in Baltimore. We have been in contact with the Director and plan to explore opportunities for senior residents, non-profits and others in Montgomery County to participate. ReServe pairs older adults in stipended positions in non-profits, libraries, schools and other institutions.

#### **5. Intergenerational programs**

We are meeting with HHS, JCA, and others to consider applying for national recognition of Montgomery County as a model intergenerational community.

#### **6. Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award**

As part of the County recognition of service to the community, recognition was given to Ruby Rubens and Tufail Ahmad as seniors who have made major contributions to the county, reflecting models of civic engagement. In addition to recognition at the County ceremony and in the Beacon and Gazette papers, they appeared on Seniors Today. Commission on Aging members served as judges and co-sponsored the awards.

7. Leslie Marks spent the past year as a Senior Fellow within the Office of Community Partnerships at the Volunteer Center engaging senior communities and Villages in county sponsored service days. Senior communities became aware of the county's community service commitment and they participated in Community Service Week, Martin Luther King Day, and the County Awards Program. Senior communities engaged in such projects as collecting disposal diapers for homeless, providing canned goods for Fishers House on the Navy Medical campus, knitting hats and sweaters for babies in the hospital, cleaning along canal, contributing to trinkets to residents of NIH.

Austin Heyman  
Senior Fellow  
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## LIFELONG LEARNING

### Report of the Montgomery College Lifelong Learning Institute

The following update report described the number of thousands of seniors over 60 who have participated in Montgomery College courses:

- **Montgomery College Tuition Waiver for Credit Classes**
  - \*Age 60+
  - \*separate senior registration date, & space available basis
  - \*Senior Waiver registrations:
    - 2008 = approx 1,700
    - 2009 = approx 1,700
    - 2010 = approx 1,600
    - 2011 = approx 1,500
  - Most popular courses: Languages/arts
  
- **Non-credit** side of college
  1. Gudelsky institute for Technical Education (Rockville)
  2. Business, Information Technology & Safety (GBTC/Schools/all campuses)
  3. Adult ESOL & Literacy/GED Program (Rockville, TP/SS, Westfield)
  4. School of Art & Design (TP/SS)
  5. Health Sciences (TP/SS, but also new hospital in Germantown)
  6. Community Education & Extended Learning Services (everywhere!)
  - \*Senior Waiver registrations:
    - 2008 = approx 4,000
    - 2009 = approx 3,800
    - 2010 = approx 4,100
    - 2011 = approx 4,500
  - \*please note that these figures include all sections of WD&CE, including LLI

- Lifelong Learning Institute
  - \*produce schedule 3 X/year— Fall (Sept.-Dec.), Spring (Jan-May), Summer 1 & 2 (May-August)
  - \* registration approximately 500/fall & Spring, and 200 for Summer
  - Goal is to see where there are gaps and fill the need:**
    - a. **Bring classes into community/Accessibility**
    - b. **Attracting younger seniors who may still be working full-time with new formats to appeal to broader base (i.e. younger seniors—on-line classes/day-long )**
    - c. **Senior employment/retirement Program w/SHRM&AARP—Avoiding the Boomer Drain—**

Ann Evans

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